

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-11 OPIC-03 AF-06 OMB-01

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5984

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 940

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST INTERVIEWED

SUMMARY: IN RECENT INTERVIEW, PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST LEADER CARLOS ALBOIM INGLES WAS RELATIVELY CANDID IN ADMITTING HIS PARTY HAD ERRED IN PAST, BUT OTHERWISE DID NOT STRAY FROM CUNHAL'S POLICY POSITIONS. INGLES REITERATED PCP SUPPORT FOR ALLIANCE WITH PS, BUT NOTED SOCIALIST OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. FEB 10 INDEPENDENT LEFTIST DAILY "DIARIO POPULAR" CARRIED EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW WITH CARLOS ALBOIM INGLES OF PORTUGUESE
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COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) CENTRAL COMMITTEE. INGLES, WHO IS

ASSOCIATED WITH MODERATE WING OF PCP, MADE FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS:

-- PAST PCP ERRORS: PCP HAS "OF COURSE" COMMITTED ERRORS DURING PAST TWO YEARS. "WE COULD ONLY HAVE AVOIDED COMMITTING ERRORS HAD WE STOOD AROUND WITH OUR ARMS FOLDED." RIGHT "CERTAINLY" BENEFITTED FROM ERRORS OF LEFT; BUT LEFT IS NOT JUST PCP. GREATEST ERROR OF LEFT TO DATE HAS BEEN ITS INABILITY TO UNITE IN FACE OF COMMON ENEMIES: MONOPOLISTS AND LARGE LANDOWNERS.

-- POSSIBLE STRATEGY CHANGES: THE PCP'S BASIC STRATEGY TO DATE HAS BEEN BASED ON "PRIMORDIAL" NEED TO PROTECT INTERESTS OF WORKING CLASS AGAINST MONOPOLISTS AND LARGE LANDOWNERS. EVENTS OF LAST TWO YEARS HAVE MADE SOME ADJUSTMENTS IN TACTICS NECESSARY, BUT ESSENCE OF PCP'S STRATEGY REMAINS VALID.

-- RELATIONS WITH CPSU: NO "POLEMIC" BETWEEN SOVIET AND WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES IS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY. ALTHOUGH CERTAIN INTERESTS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT APPEAR SO. "AS IS WELL KNOWN, RELATIONS BETWEEN CPSU AND PCP ARE MOST CORDIAL."

-- ELECTIONS: IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PCP WILL RECEIVE FEWER VOTES IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS THAN IN 1975. THE 1975 PCP VOTE, HOWEVER, HAD FAR GREATER IDEOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONSISTENCY THAN DID THOSE OF OTHER PARTIES. MOREOVER, AS THREAT TO DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM IS GREATER TODAY THAN IN 1975, MANY VOTERS MAY CHOOSE COMMUNIST THIS YEAR. SINCE PCP HAS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT THE DEMOCRATIC BATTLE.

-- PS - PCP ALLIANCE: POSITIONS OF BOTH PARTIES ARE CLEAR ON THIS QUESTION: PCP SUPPORTS AN ALLIANCE; SOCIALISTS OPPOSE IT. THE "ANTI-COMMUNISM OF SOME WHO CALL THEMSELVES SOCIALISTS IS THE ONLY OBSTACLE TO AN ALLIANCE."

2. COMMENT: INGLES'S CANDOR REGARDING PAST PCP ERRORS GOES SOMEWHAT BEYOND THAT SHOWN TO DATE BY CUNHAL. OTHERWISE, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, HIS REMARKS HEW CLOSELY TO PARTY LINE ENUNCIATED BY CUNHAL AND PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE SINCE ABORTIVE NOV 25 COUP. TEXT OF INGLES INTERVIEW BEING POUCHED. CARLUCCI

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